

RHODE ISLAND.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND,

*On the subject of Protection to Domestic Industry.*

JANUARY 21, 1833.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS:

*In General Assembly, January Session, A. D. 1833.*

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly views with alarm, and with unqualified disapprobation, the propositions which have been submitted to the Congress of the United States, at the present session thereof, for abandoning, totally or partially, immediately or prospectively, the principle of protection to domestic industry, which was adopted with the Constitution, has been ever since incorporated in the laws of the Union, and was believed to be, what of right it ought to be, a permanent and settled principle of the policy of the Government, on faith of which the people of this enterprising and industrious republic might act with confidence, and be secure in their labors and pursuits.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly does not perceive, in the present juncture of the affairs of the Union, nor in the suggestions submitted in connection with the aforesaid propositions, any sufficient reason for a change in national policy, of a character so comprehensive, and fraught with consequences widely disastrous, and to a fearful extent absolutely ruinous to the agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, the population, power, and happiness of a now prosperous people. On the contrary, this Assembly being convinced, that, under existing circumstances, the sole path of safety is that of calm and persevering firmness, cannot but view, with equal surprise and disapprobation, all suggestions that countenance the substitution of the will of a minority for that of a very great majority of the people of these States; and protests against the ratification of any such suggestions, by the adoption, at this time, of any national measure affecting the national industry, resources, or revenue, in conformity thereto. And this protest it makes, under a solemn and irresistible conviction that every such measure would not only tend to introduce into all our future councils weakness, irresolution, and inconstancy, but would paralyze every just power of the Govern-

ment, and create a far greater and more immediate probability of a dissolution both of the Government and of the Union, than any which otherwise exists.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly cannot perceive how a surrender of a principle necessary for the independence and prosperity of the nation, to menaces of disunion, or of lawless resistance proceeding from a minority, can be less disastrous to the interests, or to the honor of the nation, than a surrender to actual and overpowering force: nor how those who are constrained, or who are willing thus, in anticipation, to surrender, can be said to enjoy the benefits and protection of a Republican Government, or to possess the character essential to the existence of such a Government.

*Resolved*, That the essential and vital interests of the people of this State, and, in the opinion of this General Assembly, the interests of the great body of the people in all the States, including those in which the dissatisfaction of a part has been most distinctly manifested, and most speciously argued, require that the protection now provided by law should be continued to articles of the growth, production, and manufacture of the United States.

*Resolved*, That the necessity of a protective tariff by no means arises either solely or principally from its importance to those who, upon the faith of the Government, have invested their capital in manufacturing establishments; that such a tariff is demanded by considerations affecting the independence and security of the nation, in times of commotion, and affecting its resources, and the resources, enjoyments, comforts, and necessities, of its individual citizens in all times; that the great and paramount class of proprietors and cultivators of the soil in every State, the whole class of laborers, whether deriving the means of their subsistence from mechanical or other daily toil—the whole class of employers and employed, who are engaged in a sound and profitable commerce, interior and exterior, foreign or domestic—classes which mainly constitute the population and strength of the republic, her means of advancement in peace, and her hope of defence in war—all these, and the millions who compose them, whether considered in classes, or singly as individuals, have a deep, a fixed, and absorbing interest in the preservation of the protection now extended to the national industry; an interest in respect to which the interests of the owners and conductors of manufacturing establishments also requiring that protection, are intermediate, subsidiary, and subservient.

*Resolved*, That a vacillating policy, in the regulation of trade and intercourse with foreign nations, is destructive to all branches of our national industry.

*Resolved*, That the effect of frequent alterations of the tariff laws is to distract and paralyze the enterprise of the merchant, to destroy the stability of the markets for the agriculturist, and bring ruin upon the manufacturer.

*Resolved*, That all branches of our national industry have been arranged, contracts made, voyages projected, and business commenced, under the belief and expectation that the tariff of the last session of Congress was framed and solemnly enacted after mature deliberation, and that reliance could be placed upon the stability of these measures of the Government.

*Resolved*, That, without a countervailing policy in the regulation of trade with foreign nations, all branches of our industry will be paralyzed, as was the case before the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

*Resolved*, That the Senators from this State in Congress be instructed, and the Representatives be requested, to use their exertions and influence to

prevent any abandonment whatever of the protective policy; and also to prevent such a reduction of the protection now extended by law to the productions of the soil, mines, and manufactures of the United States, as has been proposed to Congress at the present session thereof, and is embraced in the bill now pending before that body, as reported by the Committee of Ways and Means.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be certified by the Secretary, and forthwith transmitted to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

*House of Representatives, January 16th, 1833. Voted, unanimously.*

By order:

GEORGE TURNER, *Clerk.*

*In Senate.*—Read the same day, and unanimously concurred.

By order:

HENRY BOWEN, *Secretary.*

True copy: Witness,

HENRY BOWEN, *Secretary.*

prevent any abandonment whatever of the protective policy, and also to prevent such a reduction of the protection now extended by law to the productions of the soil, mines, and manufactures of the United States, as has been proposed in Congress at the present session thereof, and is embodied in the bill now pending before that body, as reported by the Committee of Ways and Means.

Answered, That a copy of these resolutions be certified by the Secretary and forthwith transmitted to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

House of Representatives, January 18th, 1833. Voted, unanimously.

By order:

GEORGE TURNER, CLERK.

Yale Senate.—Read the same day, and unanimously concurred.

By order:

HENRY BOWEN, Secretary.

Yale Senate.—Read the same day, and unanimously concurred.

HENRY BOWEN, Secretary.